

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Control: 17449
 Rec'd: October 23, 1962
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Action

ARA

FROM: Guatemala City

Info

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TO: Secretary of State

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SP

NO: 235, October 23, 6 p.m.

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Re: President's Cuba Speech

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Official reaction and private reaction sectors opposed communism approving and often enthusiastic. Leaders MDN, MLN and moderate-left PR strongly supported in public statements President Kennedy's action. General consensus now is time act despite any dangers global conflagration which probably would increase later anyway if threat not ended now. Only public communist reaction known to Embassy to date came from directorate of communist-dominated law school students association which last night proclaimed support Castro, and although Embassy has received reports of possible demonstration this afternoon, [] local communist party undecided over course of action beyond "supporting" Castro. Communists planning propaganda and non-violent demonstration but so far plan no violence until "invasion" which they believe coming. Other leftist students with whom Embassy talked seemed uncertain and more concerned over possibility Soviet-US confrontation resulting global war than Castro per se.

Minister of Defense released statement that in view invocation Rio Treaty, Guatemalan Army alerted, is at disposition OAS for whatever task assigned it, and has taken necessary measures guarantee security country.

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